

RESOLUTION 06-2006

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MINERAL EXPLORATION IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Commissioners, as the governing body of Jefferson County, fully comprehends that the mining industry is vital to its local economy as well as the economy of the State of Montana through mining's contributions of high paying jobs, purchase of supplies and equipment from local businesses, and its revenue into both the local and state tax coffers which support our schools and necessary governmental functions that sustain our quality of life, and;

WHEREAS, the Board strongly supports further mineral development, as this County is part of the mineral-rich Boulder Batholith, and;

WHEREAS, the Board is aware that the State of Montana Board of Environmental Review is in the process of amending the Administrative Rules for *Mine Operating Permits: Application Requirements*, more specifically section (6) to *ARM 17.24.116*. Even with the proposed modifications cited on by MAR Notice No. 17-244, the proposed ARM changes have a potential to restrict mining operations or eliminate future mining options to current approved mine plans throughout Montana by imposing a two-year limit on water treatment following mine closure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Jefferson County Commissioners are opposed to the proposed rule changes of ARM 17.24.116 as the amendment has the potential to negatively impact our mineral natural resource industry and likewise have a negative ripple effect in our communities. The Board believes that passing rules, proposed by anti-mining groups, that erode the mining industry are more stringent than necessary and could

carry over into potential business ventures and jeopardize our claim that Montana's doors are truly open for business.

DATED this 7th day of February, 2006.

ATTEST:

**BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER**

TOMAS E. LYTHGOE, CHAIR

CHUCK NOTBOHM, COMMISSIONER

KEN WEBER, COMMISSIONER